

## This Week in Washington

### Pombo Votes to Strengthen America's Defense

Congressman Richard Pombo voted this week for bi-partisan legislation that will significantly improve our nation's ability to respond effectively and quickly to bio-terrorist threats and other public health emergencies. The bill, the Public Health Security and Bio-terrorism Response Act, was approved by the House of Representatives by a vote of 425-1.

"The events of September 11 and the anthrax scare have shown us that we are vulnerable in areas we never realized," Pombo stated. "This legislation goes a long way to strengthening our national security and public health infrastructure."

The legislation authorizes \$300 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase their capabilities to better deal with threats to public health, as well as \$1.15 billion for the Health and Human Services Department to purchase additional smallpox vaccines and expand our current national stockpiles of medicines and supplies. In addition, the bill will protect our water supply from chemical, biological or radiological attacks by authorizing over \$100 million for the development of vulnerability analyses and emergency response plans.

### Pombo Statement on Veterans Legislation

"It may interest you to know this week the House of Representatives passed several bills pertaining to Veterans. In the coming months, Congress will likely continue taking up additional legislation including funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and various proposals examining veteran programs for improvements and efficiencies.

The contributions Veterans have provided our country must be held in the highest esteem, for the freedoms and rights we enjoy today are based on the selfless sacrifices of our soldiers. I believe our Founding Fathers meant what they said when they established the Constitution to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." For more than two centuries, those blessings have set America apart from the rest of the world. If we remain committed to our principles, our commitment will see us through the challenges ahead.

Our commitments must include taking appropriate actions to keep the promises to those who have defended this great Nation. To that end, I will continue to work diligently to ensure that the Federal government and the military are forthright in their dealings with veterans and uphold the promises they make. America must never forget the cost of victory, nor the men and women who paid for this victory with their lives."

### Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2002, H.R. 4085:

This legislation authorizes an annual cost of living adjustment for disabled veterans and their survivors, consistent with the annual Social Security adjustment. Further, this legislation will aid state veterans education-assistance agencies, offer death benefits to widows or widowers who remarry after the age of 65, give reservists access to VA home loans through 2006 and expand mortgage programs under veterans' life insurance plans to cover veterans over the age of 70.

**Recognizing the Members of AMVETS for their Service to the Nation and Supporting the Goal of AMVETS National Charter Day, H Con Res 314:** This legislation honors the members of AMVETS and support the designation of AMVETS National Charter Day. As you may know, on July 23, 1947, AMVETS was chartered by the United States as a not-for-profit corporation. AMVETS is open to veterans who have honorably served, or are serving, in the Armed Forces,

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### Today in History

**1607** - Captain Christopher Newport and 105 followers found the colony of Jamestown at the mouth of the James River on the coast of Virginia.

**1830** - The first passenger railroad service in the U.S. began service.

**1844** - Samuel F.B. Morse formally opened America's first telegraph line. The first message was sent from Washington, DC, to Baltimore, MD.

**1883** - After 14 years of construction the Brooklyn Bridge was opened to traffic.

**1931** - B&O Railroad began service with the first passenger train to have air conditioning throughout. The run was between New York City and Washington, DC.

**1935** - The Cincinnati Reds played the Philadelphia Phillies in the first major league baseball game at night. The switch for the floodlights was thrown by President F.D. Roosevelt.

**1980** - The International Court of Justice issued a final decision calling for the release of the hostages taken at the U.S. embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979.

**1994** - The four men convicted of bombing the New York's World Trade Center were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

**2000** - The U.S. House of Representatives approved permanent normal trade relations with China.

From [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com)

## This Week in Washington cont.

including the Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves, during or since World War II. Their motto is 'We fought together, now let's build together'.

**Veterans' Major Medical Facilities Construction Act of 2002, H.R. 4514:** This legislation authorizes \$285 million to commence construction projects on ten VA medical care facilities in FY 2003.

**Jobs for Veterans Act, H.R. 4015:** This legislation authorizes \$260 million over five years for the Labor Department to award states that have the best record of helping veterans find work. States also will be eligible for funding if they significantly improve job placement among veterans. The funding would be distributed in the form of grants of new contracts for veterans employment programs.

**National Medical Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002, H.R. 3253:** This legislation authorizes \$100 million over five years for four new emergency preparedness centers at VA medical centers that would conduct research and prepare responses for chemical, biological and radiological threats to the public.

**Bob Hope Veterans Chapel Designation Act, H.R. 4592:** This legislation will name a chapel in a Los Angeles national cemetery for comedian Bob Hope. Bob Hope's first radio show for the U.S. Armed Forces was broadcast from March Field in Riverside, California in 1941. His first overseas trip to entertain members of the armed forces took place in 1942. He went on to perform annual Christmas shows all over the world, including Korea, Vietnam, Russia and Saudi Arabia, for more than 50 years entertaining more than 10 million troops over the course of his career.

**Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Designation Act, H.R. 4608:** This legislation will name a Wichita, Kansas, VA Medical Center for former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

During World War II, Robert J. "Bob" Dole, a 19-year-old from Russell, Kansas, joined the Army's Enlisted Reserve Corps and gained assignment as a second lieutenant in the Army's 10th Mountain Division. His unit was sent to Italy where he was a platoon leader. On April 14, 1945, his platoon was attacked by German forces. While aiding a wounded soldier, he was seriously injured by mortar fire. The round shattered his right shoulder, leaving him paralyzed and near death. He recovered over a period of three years in Army and VA hospitals, surviving nine surgeries and undergoing rehabilitation. Bob Dole was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroism and selfless effort to aid a fellow soldier, and two Purple Hearts for the injuries he sustained. He was awarded the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign medal with two Bronze Stars for participation in the Po Valley and Northern Apennines Campaigns. He is also a recipient of the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

### Weekly Quote

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart... should swell into a mighty chorus of remembrance, gratitude and rededication on this solemn occasion."

- Abraham Lincoln

### Wordsmith

#### me-mo-ri-al

**Pronunciation:** -m&-'mOr-E-&l

**Function:** *adjective*

**Date:** 14th century

: : serving to preserve  
r e m e m b r a n c e :

**COMMEMORATIVE**

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### By the Numbers

Military Service During War  
42,348,460

Battle Deaths 650,954

Other Deaths in Service

(In Theater) 13,853

Other Deaths in Service

(Non-Theater) 229,661

Non-mortal Woundings

1,431,290

Living War Veterans

19,421,266\*

Living Veterans

25,497,691\*

Source: Dept. of Defense,

## National Moment of Remembrance

This Memorial Day, in an act of national unity, please pause with Americans at home and abroad to honor the men and women who died so that we might enjoy the gift of freedom. Let us never forget their sacrifice.

**At 3:00 p.m., simply stop what you are doing and think for one minute about those who died for your freedom. If you are driving, turn on your vehicle's headlights.**

As you participate in the National Moment of Remembrance, you are helping reclaim Memorial Day for the noble purpose for which it was established—to honor those who died in service to our Nation. Join with the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance in honoring those who have died and their families.

*From [www.remember.gov](http://www.remember.gov)*